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REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

(22 January 1993)

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Introduction

1. The report of the Industrial Development Board on its fifth special session is presented to the General Conference in accordance with Article 9.4 (c) of the Constitution. The present report should be read in conjunction with the summary record of the Board (IDB/S.5/SR.1), where details of the proceedings are contained.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2. The fifth special session of the Board was held at UNIDO Headquarters, Vienna International Centre, on 22 January 1993. (One plenary meeting - see IDB/S.5/SR.1.)

Participation

3. The following 47 of the 52* members of the Board were represented at the session: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

4. The following 27 Member States of UNIDO also participated in the session: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Ireland, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, Viet Nam, Yemen.

5. The Holy See participated as observer.

6. The Permanent observer of Palestine also participated.

7. The following specialized agency was represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

8. The following other intergovernmental organization was represented: Commission of the European Communities.

9. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: African Technical Association, International Council of Women, Society of Chemical Industry.

Opening of the session

10. The fifth special session was declared open by P. Balazs (Hungary), President of the tenth session of the Board.

Election of officers

11. C. HULSE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) was elected as Vice-President to succeed G. CLARK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), who had left Vienna.

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* The Board consists of 53 members. One seat was vacant owing to the dissolution of Czechoslovakia.

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Agenda

12. The Board adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the fifth special session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Request for release of Mr. D. L. Siazon, Jr. from his position as Director-General no later than 31 January 1993:

   (a) Consideration of the earlier date of resignation;

   (b) Appointment of an Acting Director-General in conformity with Article 9.4 (f) of the Constitution.

4. Adoption of the report of the fifth special session.

5. Closure of the fifth special session.

II. RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

13. In the light of information provided in two communications, dated 11 December 1992 and 6 January 1993, of relevance to the agenda item, the Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB/S.5/L.1) and adopted decision IDB/S.5/Dec.1 (see below).

IDB/S.5/Dec.1 RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled paragraphs (a) and (d) of its decision IDB.10/Dec.22 and noted the letter dated 7 December 1992 addressed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines to the President of the Board;

(b) Recalled that, in accordance with decision IDB.10/Dec.22, the Board would resume its tenth regular session on 29 March 1993 in order to recommend to the General Conference a candidate for the post of Director-General and that on 30 March 1993 a special session of the Conference would be held in Vienna for the purpose of considering the recommendation of the Board;

(c) Agreed to the request of the Government of the Philippines to release Domingo L. Siazon, Jr. from the post of Director-General, with effect from 31 January 1993;

(d) In accordance with Article 9.4 (f) of the Constitution, and based on the length of service as Deputy Director-General in UNIDO, decided to appoint Louis C. Alexandrenne, Deputy Director-General of the Department of External Relations, Public Information, Language and Documentation Services, as Acting Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, from 1 February 1993 until the first special session of the General Conference on 30 March 1993;

(e) Decided that the Acting Director-General should continue to receive his salary as Deputy Director-General and a non-pensionable special post allowance to bring the level of his salary to US$ 98,251 annually, prorated for the term of his service, in addition to post adjustment, allowances and benefits to which a staff member in the Professional category is entitled, and that he should receive a representation allowance of AS 294,364 annually, prorated for the term of his office.

14. The President made the following statement related to decision IDB/S.5/Dec.1:

"The fifth special session of the Industrial Development Board has just approved by consensus a decision agreeing to release the Director-General, Mr. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr. with effect from 31 January 1993 and appointing Mr. Louis C. Alexandrenne as Acting Director-General of UNIDO from 1 February until 30 March 1993.

"The Board approved this decision by consensus, guided by the desire that in this extraordinary situation the smooth and continuous operation of UNIDO must be secured for the benefit of its Member States. During the preparatory process of this session of the IDB, as well as in the interventions delivered this morning, a common understanding of the IDB member States has been confirmed that the Acting Director-General, in exercising his rights during his term of office, should take the necessary decisions that the normal running of the Organization may require. At the same time it is the common understanding of the IDB member States that major decisions with possible effect on the future of UNIDO - if they are unavoidable - will be taken in close cooperation with the senior management of UNIDO, and that no decisions with long-term consequences (for example, long-term appointments and extensions of contracts, organizational and management structure changes) should be taken which might create difficulties for or limit substantially the possibilities of the new Director-General to be elected at the next special session of the General Conference in elaborating and executing his/her ideas of managing UNIDO.

"While approving this decision the members of the Board had also in mind that the Board will resume its tenth regular session on 29 March 1993 in order to recommend to the General Conference a candidate for the post of Director-General."

15. For other statements made in connection with the adoption of the decision, see summary record IDB/S.5/SR.1, paragraphs 5 to 39 and 42 to 68.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

16. The Board considered the draft report (IDB/S.5/L.2) and adopted it as a whole, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the task of finalizing the report (see summary record IDB/S.5/SR.1, paras. 69-72). The Board closed its fifth special session on 22 January at 12.20 p.m.